



### In This Issue

Welcome.....	1
In Focus.....	1
Knoxville 2017	
Local Host Report.....	2
Teachers Workshop.....	2
Miller Award.....	2
Spallanzani Award.....	3
Villa Award.....	3
Student Awards.....	4
Puerto Vallarta 2018.....	7
News	
New Leaders.....	9
COLAM 2017.....	10
Obituary.....	11
New NASBR Policy.....	11
Invite to Host NASBR 51 (2021).....	12
Announcements	
Conferences & Scholarships.....	12
Meet The Board.....	14

### In Focus

It is no secret that bats have some of the most impressively long lifespans for mammals, given their body size. Although we have long heard about the record holders, such as the 41-year old male *Myotis brandti* from Russia, up until now we have had little understanding of the mechanisms that permit such extensive longevity in bats. In a recent paper published by Nicole Foley and others in Science Advances, the role of telomeres in the aging process of bats is investigated for the first time. Telomeres are nucleotide repeats that cap the ends of chromosomes. These structures have been demonstrated to protect chromosome ends during the DNA replication process. Due to repeated replication, telomeres shorten over time, and this shortening has been associated with senescence in a diversity of taxa, including humans. In Foley's paper, titled "Growing old, yet staying young: The role of telomeres in bats' exceptional longevity", the authors use long-term data from mark-recapture studies on wild populations of bats to investigate how telomere length changes with age in three species: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, and *Miniopterus schreibersii*. Amazingly, the authors found mammal-typical patterns of telomere shortening with age in *R. ferrumequinum* and *M. schreibersii*, but no detectable telomere degradation with age in *Myotis bechsteinii*. This aligns with past research documenting particularly long lifespans for species in the genus *Myotis*. The authors expand further upon the potential mechanism of telomere maintenance in *M. bechsteinii* and how these results can provide a stepping stone for better understanding human health and aging. Read the full article to get the whole story on this exciting study!

DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aao0926

~ Erin Gillam

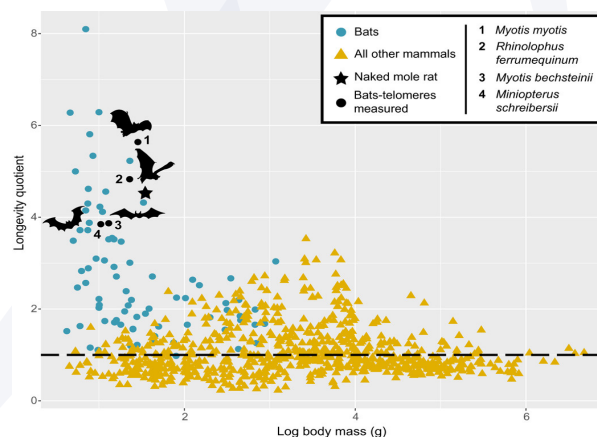
### Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of Lasiurus! In this issue, we have lots of new NASBR leaders to introduce to you, including a new Program Director, Chair of the NASBR Board of Directors, and Teacher Workshop Coordinator (and don't forget our three new Board members!). With those welcomes also come lots of thanks to those who have tirelessly served NASBR in the past and are stepping down from their current positions. We will also introduce you to the updated NASBR Code of Conduct and our two new interim ombudspersons. This story is especially important for everyone to read, as it lays out what kind of behavior is acceptable at NASBR-sponsored activities and how the ombudspersons are a resource for anyone who believes a conduct violation has occurred. Other highlights from this issue include bios on the 2017 conference awardees, information about our upcoming conference in Puerto Vallarta, and calls for board member nominations and a host for the 2021 NASBR conference.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable and productive summer! Remember to take lots of pictures, including some of yourself doing research (said from someone who is quite bad about getting pictures of herself in the field or lab!).

~ Erin Gillam

Board Member and Editor of Lasiurus





## Local Host Report

The 47th Annual Symposium for the North American Society for Bat Research (NASBR) was held in Knoxville, Tennessee at the Holiday Inn from Wednesday, October 18 – Saturday, October 21, 2018. The local hosts for the meeting were Gary McCracken and Emma Willcox. They worked closely with NASBR Program Directors Gary Kwiecinski, Frank Bonaccorso, Shahroukh Mistry, Riley Bernard, Luis Viquez Rodriguez on symposium arrangements. Pre-symposium events included a hike up Mount LeConte (19 participants), next generation DNA sequence workshop (16 participants), eastern small-footed bat workshop (20 participants), and Spallanzani Southern curling fundraiser (14 participants).

The symposium had 357 participants (201 Regular, 141 student, and 15 exhibitor). Of these, 307 were from the United States and 50 from overseas (8 countries, including Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica, and more). There were 118 oral papers (33 Student and 85 regular) and 65 posters (30 Student and 35 regular), for a total of 183 presentations.

The local committee was comprised of Gary McCracken, Emma Willcox, Veronica Brown, Melquisedec Gamba Rios, Jamey Dobbs, and Riley Bernard. Symposium volunteers included Mallory Tate, Reilly Jackson, Jess Dreyer, Adrienne Dykstra, Lauren Watine, Scott Hollis, Gracie Cecil, Marley Machara, Teri Rutherford, Bob Rutherford, Liz Hamrick, Jesse Troxler, Sara McLaughlin, and Logan Barber.

Symposium sponsors included Wildlife Acoustics, Pettersson Elektronik, Titley Scientific, Bat Conservation International, Balter Beerworks, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Yeohaw Brewery. Student award sponsors included Avinet, Basically Bats, Bat Conservation International Bat Research News, Lubee Bat Conservancy, Organization for Bat Conservation, Speleobooks, and Titley Scientific.

~ Gary McCracken & Emma Willcox

The NASBR Teacher Workshop in Knoxville was a huge success with 15 teachers from the Knoxville metro area in attendance. Attendees were provided educational resources totaling more than \$150, including DVDs, books, stickers, magazines and more. The teachers had the opportunity to hear from a number of speakers, including Amanda Bevan, Ben Hale, Aja Mercato, Rob Mies, Veronica Brown, Dr. Abigail Curtis, and Dr. Riley Bernard. Speaker topics ranged from learning how to create a 'Wing Suit Station', 'Pocket Bats', to the benefits of bats and what to do when a bat gets into a school or building.

Over 50 registered NASBR guests attended all or part of the Teacher Workshop, including picking up educational resources after the official workshop, visiting the live bats from Organization for Bat Conservation, and stepping into a homemade easy-to-replicate bat cave.

~ Rob Mies



Ms. Jamey Dobbs & Dr. Gary McCracken at the 'Wing Suit Station'

## Miller Award

### Dr. Tigga Kingston

At the 2017 meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, Professor Tigga Kingston was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the field of chiropteran biology. Tigga has worked at Texas Tech University since 2006 where she and her students have made major contributions to our understanding of the community ecology of palaeotropical bats, with a major focus on pressing bat conservation issues in Southeast Asia.

Tigga received a BS in Zoology from the University of London, finishing first in her class. She went on to earn an MSc and PhD in the Behavior and Evolution Program at Boston University, under the supervision of Dr. Thomas Kunz. In her career, she has been an author on more than 60 papers, 10 book chapters and 2 books. If her extensive research accomplishments were not impressive enough, Tigga has also been involved in many organized conservations efforts in Asia, serving as a co-chair for the IUCN Old World Bat Specialist Group and on the scientific





advisory councils for Bat Conservation International and the Lubee Bat Conservancy. Finally, Tigga has invested heavily in efforts to educate children and adults in Malaysia about the importance of bats, as well as co-developing a program in which elementary children were virtually involved in the data collection and analysis process with her SE

Asia bat team. The accolades continue, with an outstanding funding record, extensive organization of conferences, and more. In Tigga's words "I was deeply honored to receive the Gerrit S. Miller Award". Tigga, NASBR was also very proud to see you win this award, as it is very much deserved!

~ Erin Gillam

## Spallanzani Award

### Dr. Ludmilla Aguiar

In 2017, NASBR was excited to award the Spallanzani fellowship to Dr. Ludmilla Aguiar from Brazil. The Spallanzani Fellowship is awarded to exceptional scientists who have made meritorious accomplishments that promote bat research, education, and/or conservation programs in their country. Dr. Ludmilla Aguiar is a Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology at the University of Brasilia in Brasilia, Brazil. Dr. Aguiar's research focuses on the conservation and ecology of neotropical bats. In recent years, Dr. Aguiar and her students have examined the impacts of global climate change, fire, wind energy and habitat disturbance on bats of the cerrado ecosystem in Brazil. She has received funding for her work from a variety of national and international agencies, and is involved with outreach efforts to educate members of local communities about the importance of bats in Brazilian ecosystems. Dr. Aguiar is the founder of the Brazilian Society for the Study of Bats and a



co-founder of RELCOM, the Latin American Network for the Conservation of Bats. At the 2017 NASBR meeting in Knoxville, Dr. Aguiar gave a fascinating presentation entitled "Bat Diversity and Conservation in Brazil". In her talk, Dr. Aguiar talked about the staggering diversity of bats in Brazil, with ~ 15% of the world's bat species being found throughout the varying ecosystems of the country. Her talk also highlighted conservation challenges in Brazil, such as land development for agriculture and renewable energy facilities, as well as stigmas about bats and rabies amongst the public. Overall, it was a great pleasure to have Dr. Aguiar and her family in attendance at NASBR 2017. While we certainly hope that the experience of attending NASBR was a great one for her, we definitely know that many people enjoyed interacting with Dr. Aguiar and that her presence enriched our annual conference. We look forward to seeing more great things come from Dr. Aguiar in the future!

~ Erin Gillam

## Villa Award

### Stephanie Ortega

The Bernardo Villa award is given annually to a Latin American student conducting outstanding research on bats. The award supports the student's attendance of NASBR, during which they present their research to the NASBR community. In 2017, there were seven applicants at the undergraduate and graduate levels, coming from state universities, federal universities, and research centers. Four judges from Latin America and the United States were invited to review and select among the applicants. Stephanie Ortega was chosen as the 2017 Bernardo Villa awardee. Stephanie worked under the supervision of Dr. Jorge Schöndube at the Instituto de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas y Sustentabilidad (IIES-campus Morelia). Stephanie's CV includes different academic stays in universities such as Universidad de la Havana, Cuba; Trinity University in Texas; and the University of Kansas. Her research interests focus on climate change, macroecology and conservation physiology, with particular reference to small mammals. She has published four peer-reviewed papers and



has been part of organizing committees of different events and activities within scientific meetings.

At the 2017 NASBR meeting in Knoxville, TN, Stephanie gave a presentation entitled “The Evolution of Thermal Niches in Neotropical Nectar-feeding Bats”. In summary, Stephanie’s research documented large variation in the thermal niches of different species, particularly in regard to lower temperature limits. In Stephanie’s word, “Being honored by the Bernardo Villa award has motivated me to work even harder on my research and offered me the opportunity to share this research with students, colleagues and friends during the Annual Meeting in Knoxville, TN, a unique opportunity to broaden my academic horizons. On a deep personal level, this award filled me with enthusiasm and confidence to continue with studies that allow the long-term conservation of these wonderful mammals”. Stephanie went on to complete her PhD degree in May 2018, graduating with honors.

~ Jorge Ortega Reyes

## Student Awards

### Avinet Award

Melissa E. Rodriguez

**Genetic Diversity of *Artibeus jamaicensis* (Phyllostomidae) in Forest Fragments Surrounded by Agricultural Matrix in El Salvador.** El Salvador is the most deforested country in Central America, and we know the severe change in land use affects habitat suitability for wildlife, but we still don’t know at which level. Therefore, I am trying to understand the effects of habitat fragmentation on population genetic structure. In order to do so, we quantified genetic diversity and genetic structure of *Artibeus jamaicensis*. We found that the genetic diversity was lower than other studies with the same species and genetic structure presented values close to zero, meaning there is only one genetic population of *A. jamaicensis* in the country. I was so honored in receiving the Avinet Award, which made me realize the potential of the research I am doing for bats in my country and in the region (Central America). I plan to use the award to finish the lab work and analysis in a similar project using *Glossophaga soricina*, as habitat loss might be affecting gene flow in other less mobile species in El Salvador.



### Basically Bats, Wildlife Conservation Society Award

Maria Monarcchino

**Identifying Important Habitat Characteristics Associated with Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) Reproduction in Southeast Ohio.** My research aims to identify important habitat characteristics for eastern red bat reproduction in Southeast Ohio in order to provide better management recommendations and to help reduce the loss of summer maternity habitat. After comparing mist net captures from a nature preserve to a site that has historically been used for coal mining, we identified a lack of female red bats on the previously mined site while the nature preserve had a healthy reproducing population. Using temperature sensitive transmitters, we are radio tracking bats to their daytime roosting sites to understand the differences in habitat preferences and availability between our two study locations. Attending NASBR was a fantastic opportunity to learn from others in the bat community. I am truly honored to have received this award and am thankful for the support from Basically Bats to continue my research.



## Bat Conservation International Award

Melquisedec Gamba-Rios

**Predator Cues Recognition by Bats: The Effect of Social Communication.**

My research interest are focused on behavioral ecology, in particular, the effect of predation on communication and social behavior and on the cognitive abilities of bats to identify predators and predation risk. To address some of these topics, I study Spix's disk-winged bat (*Thyroptera tricolor*) and the tent-making bat (*Dermanura watsoni*). I evaluate how different sensory mechanisms are used by these bats to recognize predators and to assess predation risk. The NASBR community has been a continued inspiration since my first meeting as an undergrad in 2004. I am genuinely honored to receive the Bat Conservation International award from peers and am thankful for the incredible feedback that I have received on my research.



## Bat Research News Award

Ana Breit

**Roosting Energetics and Pathogen Transmission in *Myotis lucifugus*.** My research for my master's degree focused on the effects of heated roost boxes on the thermoregulation of little brown bats and how thermoregulatory behaviours in turn affected their likelihood of acquiring a contact pathogen. I found that bats using heated roosts spent more time normothermic, but did not have a greater proxy pathogen load. This research is important in the context of WNS, as bats that survived the winter with WNS that spend more time normothermic and less time in torpor should heal and reproduce faster, potentially helping affected populations recover faster. It was an honour to present my work to such an amazing group of researchers in such a welcoming community. The funds from the award were used to purchase personal field equipment for my new research project on thermoregulation in small tropical mammals in Borneo.

## Karl F. Koopman Award

Caitlin Campbell

**Range-Wide Migratory Patterns of North American Tree-Roosting Bats.**

My research interests include conservation, spatial, and stable isotope ecology. I am particularly interested in developing novel techniques to answer pressing questions about bat migration. As part of my master's research, I used stable hydrogen isotopic markers in the hair of three species of migratory North American bats to model the direction and distance of movement. With this work, I hope to answer important questions about migratory behavior and connectivity. Receiving this award is a huge honor, and will help to support my academic career as I continue to pursue research in bat conservation. I am very grateful for the support and mentorship I have received from the NASBR community.



## Luis F. Bacardi Bat Conservation Award

Michael Whitby

**Discerning Migratory Patterns of Bats in Nebraska.** My dissertation focuses on discerning the migratory patterns of bats in East Central Nebraska. We have deployed a grid of acoustic detectors across a 10,000 square kilometer area in order to determine the spatial and temporal use of the landscape throughout the year. As a side project, we began to explore the use of weather radar to determine bat activity across the same landscape. By combining these efforts, we hope to find new ways to sample bat activity across large landscapes. This work is highly exploratory and receiving this award gives me confidence

that the work is headed in the right direction and will make an impact on bat conservation efforts. I will use the award to pay school fees.



## Organization for Bat Conservation Award

Faith Ureel

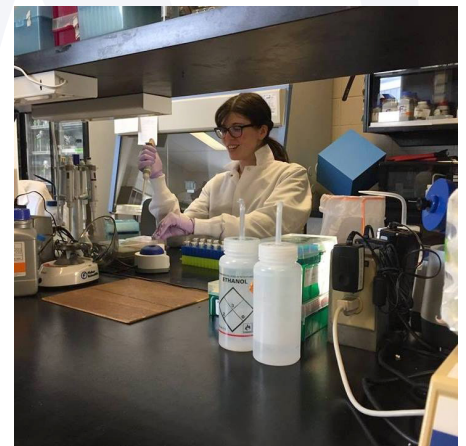
**From the Shadows of the Southeast: The Population Genetics and Phylogeography of *Myotis austroriparius*.** At NASBR, I presented on my project focused on the population structure and demography of *Myotis austroriparius*, the southeastern bat, using 10 experimentally determined microsatellite loci. The goal of this project is to better inform management strategies for *M. austroriparius* in the midst of the white-nose syndrome epidemic. This research was conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Russell as part of the Beckman Scholars Program, an undergraduate research fellowship. I feel humbled and grateful to have earned this award for my poster, as well as the opportunity to speak to and learn from so many inspirational scientists at the meeting. The award went toward my school tuition.



## Speleobooks Award

Virginie Lemieux-Labonte

**Skin Microbiota Potential in WNS Resistance of Hibernating *Eptesicus fuscus*.** I study the skin microbiota of hibernating bats in the context of white-nose syndrome (WNS). More specifically, my latest project explored the microbiota of big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), a species known to be less affected than other bats by WNS. Interestingly, my analysis of the skin microbiota revealed that it was enriched in bacteria with antifungal properties in big brown bats, and that the composition of the skin microbiota remained stable when facing the fungus. Based on these results, it is postulated that the bacteria inhabiting the skin could play a role to protect bats against WNS. This research is a first step towards understanding how skin microorganisms could be used to manage the disease. Presenting and attending NASBR was a wonderful experience, and receiving this award for my research is a great honor. This money will be invested in my future project, which explores the functional role of skin bacteria using metagenomics.



## Titley Scientific Award

Rochelle Kelly

**Diversity and Distribution of Bats in the San Juan Archipelago.** For my dissertation research, I studied the diversity, distributions, and ecology of bats among the San Juan Islands in Washington State. At NASBR 2017, I presented evidence that Pacific Northwest bats conform to the predictions of Island Biogeography theory among near-shore oceanic islands. Specifically, I found that island area strongly influenced patterns of species richness; however, I did not find evidence that isolation reduced species richness at the scale of this study. This research provides insight into how geographic factors affect the diversity and distributions of bat communities in fragmented landscapes. I am very grateful to be the recipient of the Titley Scientific Award, and I will use these funds to complete my dissertation research.





## NASBR 2018 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Local Hosts: Jorge Ortega & Rodrigo Medellín

Dates: October 24-27, 2018

The 48th Annual Symposium on Bat Research (NASBR) will be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 24-27 October, 2018. Registration for the 48th Annual NASBR will open in June 2018. There will be several pre-conference tours, organized by Ecotours Vallarta. We will also offer one pre-conference workshop, focused on the specifics of using acoustic detection methods to study bats, and potentially a second workshop on WNS detection. On Thursday and Friday nights, NASBR participants will also have the opportunity to net for bats. We will have a 6K run open to all NASBR meeting registrants to support the Spallanzani Fellowship. Finally, we would like to create a bat mural of photos from researchers to celebrate Bat Week in 2018.



### The Location

The 48th Annual Symposium on Bat Research will be held at the Westin Resort & Spa, Puerto Vallarta. This exclusive resort located on 6 hectares overlooking the Bay of Banderas is 1 km from Marina Vallarta. The resort provides a beachfront escape, yet is only a 15 minute drive from downtown. There are a multitude of things to do in Puerto Vallarta, such as strolling the sculpture-lined, oceanfront malecón (promenade), spending the day whale watching in the Pacific Ocean's Banderas Bay,

or simply relaxing on the most beautiful beaches in Mexico. The elegant rooms each have a television, Wi-Fi connection (free for symposium attendees), minibar and coffeemaker; most have sea views. Upgraded superior rooms and suites offer access to a lounge with breakfast and free drinks. All rooms have balconies, and some whirlpools. Room service is available 24 hours a day.

The private beach has cabins (for a fee) and a club with a grill. There is also a restaurant with a rooftop terrace and a lively bar in the lobby. Amenities include 2 free-form outdoor pools (1 with a pool bar), a gym, and a kids' club, as well as sports courts and a spa offering oceanfront massages. The average minimum and maximum October temperatures are: 68°/90° F (20°/32° C).

### Getting to Puerto Vallarta

Licenciado Gustavo Díaz Ordaz International Airport (IATA: PVR) is about 1.8 miles (3 kilometers) from the symposium hotel. Attendees can arrive at the hotel, located at the Zone 1A/ Marina Area by taxi.

### Conference Workshop

**Bat Acoustics Workshop: Wednesday, Oct. 24, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - \$30 [Max 20 Participants]**

Drs. Cristina Mac Swiney and Veronica Zamora from Universidad Veracruzana and Instituto Politécnico Nacional, academics who founded the bat acoustics reference library "SONO-ZOTZ", will host a Bat Acoustics workshop. This workshop will target researchers and students with basic knowledge on bat acoustics and have some experience with recording bat calls.

Participants will be guided through the use of the most common recording techniques (e.g. zipline, hand release) and how they must be applied to each bat species. We will also cover the use of bat detectors and common software used for acoustic analysis. During the course, a new online platform for sharing acoustic data and recordings will be presented. Lunch and coffee breaks are included.

### Spallanzani Fundraiser and Other Conference Activities

**6K Run: Wednesday, Oct. 24, 6:30 AM- \$35**

This year's Spallanzani fundraiser will be a 6K race that will take place at 8:00 am on Wednesday, October 24th. Runners should assemble in the lobby of the Westin Hotel at 6:30 AM for transport to the local park. Following the race, runners will re-hydrate and return by bus to the hotel.

# Oct. 24 - 27, 2018

Summer 2018

8

Vol. 4, Issue 1

## **Bat Mist Netting: Thursday, Oct. 25, 6 - 10:00 PM\* \$30 [Max 30 Participants]**

Bat netting will take place in an urban setting in Puerto Vallarta. Participants must bring their own head lamp and gloves, etc. We will provide guides, nets, poles, rope, etc. In order to handle bats, all participants should be rabies vaccinated and must sign a waiver. If you are coming from a region that may be suspect or positive for white-nose syndrome, please bring brand new equipment to participate in this activity. Box lunch and refreshments will be provided.

\*Depending on demand for this activity, a second night of netting may be added for Friday.

## **Bat Mural: Entire Meeting Duration**

Let's celebrate Bat Week in Puerto Vallarta. We want to create a mural of bats from all over the world! Please bring printed photos of bats that you have worked with: letter size (8.5x11 or similar) with your name on the back. Please give them to the volunteers during the first day of the meeting, and pick them up at the end of the meeting at the registration desk. Do not miss the opportunity to show the beauty of these animals and share our photographic experiences with other bat enthusiast attendees.



## **Local attractions and Eco-tours**

**Artisan market "Pueblo Viejo"** The Artisan market Located a few blocks from downtown the Pueblo Viejo provides visitors with a place to purchase a wide variety of Mexican handicrafts, silver jewelry, blown glass and ceramic arts, masks, handmade traditional clothes, and tasty local gastronomy. Source: <http://visitpuertovallarta.com>

**"El Malecón" (Promenade)** Located in the historic center of Puerto Vallarta, the El Malecon is a 0.5 mile long promenade with beautiful vistas along the ocean. Alongside the pier, visitors can find a large concentration of art galleries, jewelry stores, restaurants, and bars, as well as more than 15 sculptures created by some of the most famous Mexican artists, including the Arch sculpture artist. In front of the Arch sculpture is the main square, known as "Plaza de Armas", a beautiful square decorated by gardens. During the end of October and

**"El Malecón" (Promenade)** Located in the historic center of Puerto Vallarta, the El Malecon is a 0.5 mile long promenade with beautiful vistas along the ocean. Alongside the pier, visitors can find a large concentration of art galleries, jewelry stores, restaurants, and bars, as well as more than 15 sculptures created by some of the most famous Mexican artists, including the Arch sculpture artist. In front of the Arch sculpture is the main square, known as "Plaza de Armas", a beautiful square decorated by gardens. During the end of October and beginning of November, El Malecón is decorated with traditional Mexican altars for the "Día de los Muertos" celebration.

**Cuale River Island** Located in the middle of old Vallarta, Cuale River Island is the location of the Cultural Centre Cuale, a peaceful area for walking or running. Beautiful stairs link the island to a residential area where you can see a spectacular view of the Puerto Vallarta Mountains.

**Vallarta Botanical Gardens** An educational research center and garden located high in the Sierra Madre Mountains, the Vallarta Botanical Gardens encompass 20 acres of land with a collection of over 3,000 plant species. As a complementary activity, the gardens offer swimming in the crystal clear waters of the Los Horcones River.

## **Tours**

Proposed eco-tours include visiting Vallarta's Botanical Gardens, and Tequila Distillery to learn about bat friendly agave productions; visiting and snorkeling at the famous Marietas National Park, known as the Mexican Galapagos; learning about the macaw conservation program; and discovering sea turtles and the process by which hatchlings are released into the ocean.

Do not hesitate to visit these beautiful tropical lands, enjoy your wonderful climate and hang out with your roostmates at our 48th meeting. We hope to see you soon. Visit [www.nasbr.org](http://www.nasbr.org) to register.





## Important Dates

<b>Aug. 21</b>	<b>Early Registration Deadline &amp; Abstracts due</b>
Sep. 16	Last day to get conference rates at the hotel
Sep. 18	Last day to order t-shirts
Sep. 18	Program and Abstracts available online
Sep. 20	Last day to sign up for Tours & Curling
Oct. 10	Last day to order banquet tickets

## New Leaders

This year, we are excited to welcome several new individuals to the NASBR leadership and coordination team! We are also sad to see the dedicated individuals that previously served in these positions stepping down, but we thank them deeply for all of the time and effort they have given to NASBR over the years.

*First, the Hellos....*

### Chair of the Board of Directors: Dr. Burton Lim

Dr. Lim has served as the Assistant Curator of Mammalogy at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto since 1986, and received his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2007. His research focuses on the evolution and biodiversity of mammals, with an emphasis on bats. Much of his research focuses on evolutionary genetics, although he has been involved in a wide variety of studies examining phylogeography, taxonomy, and other topics. He is an author on more than 75 research articles, has written multiple book chapters and has authored one book. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of NASBR since 2013.

"I took on the position of NASBR Chair to continue the great work the society does for promoting bat research throughout the world", says Burton. "One of my goals is to get our student awards, such as Villa and Koopman, set up as endowments that will keep them financially secure in perpetuity. I am also chairing a 50th anniversary committee to prepare for our historic milestone, with special invited guests and presentations for the 2020 meetings in Tempe, AZ. As our society has grown from 42 people at the first meeting to upwards of 400 at more recent ones, I would like to continue this growing interest in the study of the most interesting group of mammals and ensure that NASBR and the Board meet the increasing needs of the largest scientific organization devoted to bats".

### Program Director: Dr. Emma Willcox

Dr. Willcox received her PhD from the University of Gainesville in 2010, and has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville since 2012. Dr. Willcox is interested in understanding the impacts of major threats, such as habitat change/loss and infectious disease, on wildlife populations. Her current research program addresses the conservation and ecology of bat populations in the Southeastern United States, including studies focused on detection of White-Nose Syndrome, documentation of the roosting ecology of bats in the Great Smoky Mountains, and the response of bats to prescribed burns, among others. Emma served as a co-Host for the 2017 NASBR conference in Knoxville, TN.

In Emma's words, "when I was asked to become a Program Director, I felt it would be a great opportunity for me to contribute to NASBR, especially having just co-hosted the Knoxville meeting. My main goal is to enhance participation of students and international researchers in the annual meeting".

### Teacher Workshop Coordinator: Veronica Brown

Veronica Angelelli Brown has served as a Research Associate at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville since 2001, with a two-year hiatus during which she completed her M.Sc. Degree in the McCracken lab. Veronica's research interests focus on the ecological applications of molecular techniques, with particular interest in non-invasive methods of DNA analysis from environmental samples. She has worked on a variety of projects, including her master's research on non-invasive species ID from guano samples using genetic markers. Veronica played a pivotal role in the organization of the 2017 NASBR conference in Knoxville.

Veronica tells us in her own words why she was interested in taking on this new leadership position. "I would like to see the Teacher Workshop go beyond just teaching local teachers for a few hours. I hope to expand into local schools to work directly with school kids. I also want to expand the Teacher Workshop to involve more NASBR participants in outreach opportunities".

*And the Goodbyes...*

This year, we give many thanks to Dr. Frank Bonaccorso, as he steps down after 8 years of serving as a Program Director for NASBR. Despite starting his adventures in retirement, Frank will remain an active member of NASBR. He will also be taking on the position of NASBR Historian, the first person

to serve in this newly created position! We are also very grateful to the tireless service of Dr. Al Kurta, who is stepping down as the Chair of the NASBR Board of Directors after X years serving in this role (Al will still be at meetings as a Past President and a regular member). Finally, many thanks to Rob Mies for his devotion to the Teacher Workshop over the years, including his time as Teacher Workshop Coordinator.

A paragraph at the end of a newsletter article does little justice to all the work these three individuals have done for our society. Despite that, please know that you have the deepest gratitude of the members of NASBR for all your dedication and hard work over the years.

~ Erin Gillam

## COLAM 2017

In November 2017, the Latin American Bat Conservation Network (Red Latinoamericana para la Conservación de los Murciélagos - RELCOM) hosted the Second Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Bats (Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Murciélagos – II COLAM). The meeting was held in El Salvador, in the capital city of San Salvador. Participation in the conference was excellent, with 163 participants registered to present a platform or poster research study. More than 30 attendees participated in a variety of workshops, each of which were taught by distinguished researchers from Latin American countries. Participants came from Canada, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa



Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile and Peru, making this meeting a very successful event in regards to the number of countries represented. The second Lasiurus awards (co-sponsored by NASBR) for both platform and poster presentations were presented during this meeting. Darwin Morales (Colombia) won the platform contest with the talk, “Diversidad de los ensamblajes de murciélagos en ecosistemas de sabana inundables de la Orinoquia Colombiana”. Camila Triana (Colombia) won the poster award with her poster entitled “Costo energético asociado al establecimiento de la respuesta inmune innata en *Artibeus lituratus*”. Overall, the local hosts did a great job putting on an excellent congress. We hope to have a larger influx of participants for III COLAM, which will be held in the city of Merida, Mexico.



- Jorge Ortega Reyes



## Obituary - Robert J. Baker, Ph.D.



Robert James Baker passed away Friday, March 30, 2018. He was born on April 8, 1942, to James Simeon Baker and Laura Cooper in Warren, Arkansas. His father perished during World War II and his mother remarried, resulting in Robert growing up with six half-siblings. Robert graduated high school and attended Ouachita Baptist University on a track and

football scholarship, and then received his B.S. from Arkansas A&M College. He later received a Master of Science degree from Oklahoma State University and a PhD from the University of Arizona. Robert joined the faculty at Texas Tech University in 1967, where he spent 48 years in the Department of Biological Sciences. He was recognized as a distinguished teacher and research scientist by Texas Tech University and several professional scientific organizations. He was active in many scientific societies, including serving as president of the American Society of Mammalogists, Southwestern Association of Naturalists, and Texas Society of Mammalogists. In 1979, Robert received the Paul Whitfield Horn Professorship, which is the university's highest award for a faculty member. He was known nationally and internationally for his scholarship, research productivity, and education of graduate students. During his career at Texas Tech University, he mentored 98 students to completion of Master's and Ph.D. degrees. He also impacted the lives of hundreds of undergraduate students, especially through the non-majors biology course for which he is fondly remembered by many. Robert also was the founder and Director of the Natural Science Research Laboratory of the Museum of Texas Tech University, a position he occupied from 1976 until his retirement in 2015. Robert was passionate about education, waterfowl and pheasant hunting, raising golden retrievers, and ranching.

~ Dr. Robert Bradley, Texas Tech University

## New NASBR Policy

### Ombuds Positions

In 2015, the NASBR Board of Directors adopted a Code of Conduct Policy, delineating what types of actions constitute "harassment". This policy was the first step towards ensuring that NASBR events are a safe and productive environment in which all members are treated with respect. In 2017, the NASBR Board of Directors amended the Code of Conduct to include a new section about handling violations to the policy. Here are some of the highlights to the new policy that everyone should know about:

1. The new policy outlines a clear process for investigating any Code of Conduct violations that are brought to the attention of the NASBR Board of Directors. For anyone reporting a violation, it is suggested that you record as much as you can about the incident in question - create a detailed description with accurate information about times and places, record the names of any witnesses, and save any associated documentation (emails, text messages, medical/police reports). All of this information will go into an official letter of complaint that will be signed by the complainant. After receiving such a formal complaint letter, the Board of Directors will assign an investigator to the case. After a thorough inquiry, the investigator's findings will be shared with the Board of Directors, who will decide whether a violation of the Code of Conduct has occurred.

2. Who should you contact if you feel there has been a Code of Conduct violation? First, as mentioned above, talk to someone you trust, whether that be a friend or mentor. While you can certainly skip this step, confiding in someone you trust who can stand by you during the official reporting process can be helpful. The process officially begins when you report the potential violation to either the Ombudspersons or a member of the NASBR Board of Directors.

You might be saying to yourself "I didn't know that NASBR had Ombudspersons". Well, we do now! As part of an effort to create an environment in which members feel comfortable reporting potential violations of NASBR by-laws or policies, two Ombudsperson positions have been created. Currently, we have two interim Ombudspersons that will be available to all NASBR members at the upcoming 2018 meeting in Puerto Valarta - Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rüppell and Mr. Terry Zinn. Their pictures are below, in case you have not met either of these friendly and supportive people. Details about the duties of the Ombudsperson can be found in the description below - in general, these individuals are here to serve as a liaison between the NASBR membership and the NASBR Board of Directors. Even if you have never met Matina or Terry, know that they are here to help and will give you their full attention if you want to talk about a policy violation.

3. Finally, the new Code of Conduct policy adds some proverbial "teeth", permitting the NASBR Board of Directors to take disciplinary action against individuals that, after investigation, have been found by the Board to have violated the Code of

### 2021 NASBR Meeting (East Region)

The North American Society for Bat Research invites bids for hosting the 2021 annual meeting of the society. Eligible states, provinces, and territories are those east of Manitoba in Canada, US states east of the Mississippi (see map below). Intention to bid should be communicated to one of the Program Chairs (Gary Kwiecinski via Gary.Kwiecinski@Scranton.edu or Frank Bonaccorso via bonafrank@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. Program chairs will provide detailed advice on bid preparation. Bids must be submitted by August 1st to the Chair of the NASBR Board of Directors, Al Kurta (via akurta@emich.edu). Support for locating suitable venues and obtaining hotel bids is available - contact Shahroukh Mistry (mistrysh@butte.edu). Additional information can be found on the website. The NASBR Board of Directors will evaluate bids and successful bids meeting the basic criteria of the society will be placed before the members of the society at the NASBR business meeting in Puerto Vallarta for a vote of member preference.



### Upcoming Conferences

#### 49th North American Symposium on Bat Research

October 23-26, 2019

Kalamazoo, MI

Local Host: Amy Russell, Grand Valley State University

Venue: Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo

<http://www.nasbr.org>

Conduct. Quoting the policy, "Such actions range from a verbal warning to termination of membership and banishment from future NASBR meetings or activities, without refund of fees, depending on the severity of the offence and/or the number of offences committed".

While this article is a summary of the changes to the policy, please take the time to read the policy in full, which can be found below. These changes were accepted by the NASBR Board of Directors at the Knoxville meeting, hence they are now in full effect.

~ Erin Gillam



Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Ruppel



Mr. Terry Zinn





City of Kalamazoo

# Announcements

<http://www.batcon.org/our-work/initiatives/award-grants-scholarships>

## **Bat Conservation and Management**

### **Small Grant Program**

Up to \$5,000 in products and software to encourage important but under-supported conservation and/or research projects

<http://www.batmanagement.com/GrantProgram/grantprogram.html>

### **Holohil Grant Program**

#### **Scientific Product Grant**

Offers Holohil transmitters at a reduced (or no) cost to research projects.

<http://www.holohil.com/grant-program>

### **Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Student Travel Award**

Up to \$500 to attend NASBR

<http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com/grant>

### **Western Bat Working Group: Bob Berry Fund**

This scholarship provides various technology to assist in research (transmitters, detectors, etc.).

<http://wbwg.org/>

### **Western Bat Working Group: Dixie Pierson Memorial Fund**

This scholarship consists of two \$500 awards every other year to defray travel costs to the WBWG meeting.

<http://wbwg.org/>

### **Wildlife Acoustics**

#### **Scientific Product Grant**

Up to \$5,000 in products (some exclusions apply) each quarter  
Quarterly deadlines (Feb 15, May 15, Aug 15, Nov 15)

<http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com/grant>

### **American Society of Mammalogists Grants in Aid of Research**

ASM provides various funding opportunities available to members.

<http://www.mammalsociety.org/grants>

### **AMNH Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grants**

Seed research grants are available for field-based research, as well as to use the AMNH collections.

<http://www.amnh.org/our-research/richard-gilder-graduate-school/academics-and-research/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/research-grants-and-student-exchange-fellowships>

### **The Animal Behavior Society Research Grants**

Several grants including Meeting Related Awards, Student Related Awards, Developing Nations Research Grants, Travel Awards, and Career Awards.

<http://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/web/awards.php>

## **New England Bat Working Group Meeting**

Date TBD

State College, PA

<http://www.nebwg.org/meetings.html>

## **Midwestern Bat Working Group Meeting**

Date and Location TBD

<http://mwbwg.org/>

## **Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Meeting**

Date and Location TBD

<http://sbdn.org/>

## **Western Bat Working Group Meeting**

April 22-25, 2019

Tulsa, OK

<http://wbwg.org/2019-biennial-workshop-and-meeting/>

## **18th International Bat Research Conference**

July 28 - August 2, 2019

Phuket, Thailand

## **15th European Bat Research Symposium**

August 3-7, 2020

Turku, Finland

<http://ebrs2020.fi>

## **50th North American Symposium on Bat Research**

October 28-31, 2020

Tempe, AZ

Local Hosts: Angie McIntire, Arizona Game & Fish Department & Marianne Moore, Arizona State University

<http://www.nasbr.org>

## Scholarships / Grants

### **Bat Conservation International Scholarship**

This scholarship of up to \$3,000 funds research aimed at bat conservation.

### **The Society of Systematic Biology**

Graduate Student Research Awards assist students in the initiation (first two years) of their systematics projects and in the collection of preliminary data.

<http://www.systbio.org/graduate-student-research-awards.html>

### **EPA Star and GRO Fellowships**

Support for fellowships and professional development opportunities that will help ensure that environmental solutions are based on quality training and sound science.

Information here.

<https://www.epa.gov/research-fellowships>

### **Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research**

Grants of up to \$1,000 to students from all areas of the sciences and engineering. Designated funds from the National Academy of Sciences allow for grants of up to \$2,500 for vision related research.

<https://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/grants-in-aid>



Visit Knoxville sponsored NASBR Bat Signal  
NASBR 2017

## Board of Directors

\* Denotes voting member

Riley Bernard	Pennsylvania State University Associate Program Director
Alyson Brokaw*	Texas A&A University Student Representative
Erin Gillam*	North Dakota State University Secretary, Spallanzani Chair, Auction Chair
Allen Kurta	Eastern Michigan University Past Board Chair, Nominations
Gary Kwiecinski	University of Scranton Program Director
Kristen Lear*	University of Georgia Student Representative
Burton Lim*	Royal Ontario Museum Board Chair, Finance
Gary McCracken	University of Tennessee 2017 Co-host
Liam McGuire*	Texas Tech University Finance Chair, Policy & Public Relations
Shahroukh Mistry	Butte College Associate Program Director
Joy O'Keefe*	Indiana State University Sponsorship, Awards
DeeAnn Reeder	Bucknell University Treasurer
Jorge Ortega Reyes	Instituto Politécnico Nacional 2018 Local Host, Bernardo Villa Chair
Maria Sagot*	SUNY Oswego Nominations Chair, Sponsorships
Sharlene Santana*	University of Washington Awards Chair
Bill Schutt*	Long Island University & AMNH Sponsorships Chair, Policy & Public Relations
Luis Viquez	Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, México Associate Program Director
Emma Willcox	University of Tennessee Associate Program Director, 2017 Co-host
Heather York*	Buena Vista University Education & Outreach Chair, Awards

---

*Lasiurus* Editor

Design

Student Award Photos

Erin Gillam

Riley Bernard

Jamey Dobbs

[www.nasbr.org](http://www.nasbr.org)

NASBR is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization